



# DURABILITY ASSESSMENT OF WELD SEAMS IN VIRTUAL PROVING GROUND TESTING OF COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

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Universität  München



# Agenda

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Virtual proving ground testing
- 3 Modelling of welds
- 4 Comparison of simulated and measured stress
- 5 Comparison of durability results
- 6 Conclusion and outlook

# Motivation

High number of variants

New battery electric vehicle concepts

No mass production  
~7000 busses in 2019

Frontloading in dev. process  
Higher level of majority of new concepts  
Reduce number of prototypes

City bus



Lion's City



Lion's City E



Lion's City 18 G

Intercity bus



Lion's InterCity

Coach



Neoplan Cityliner



Lion's Coach

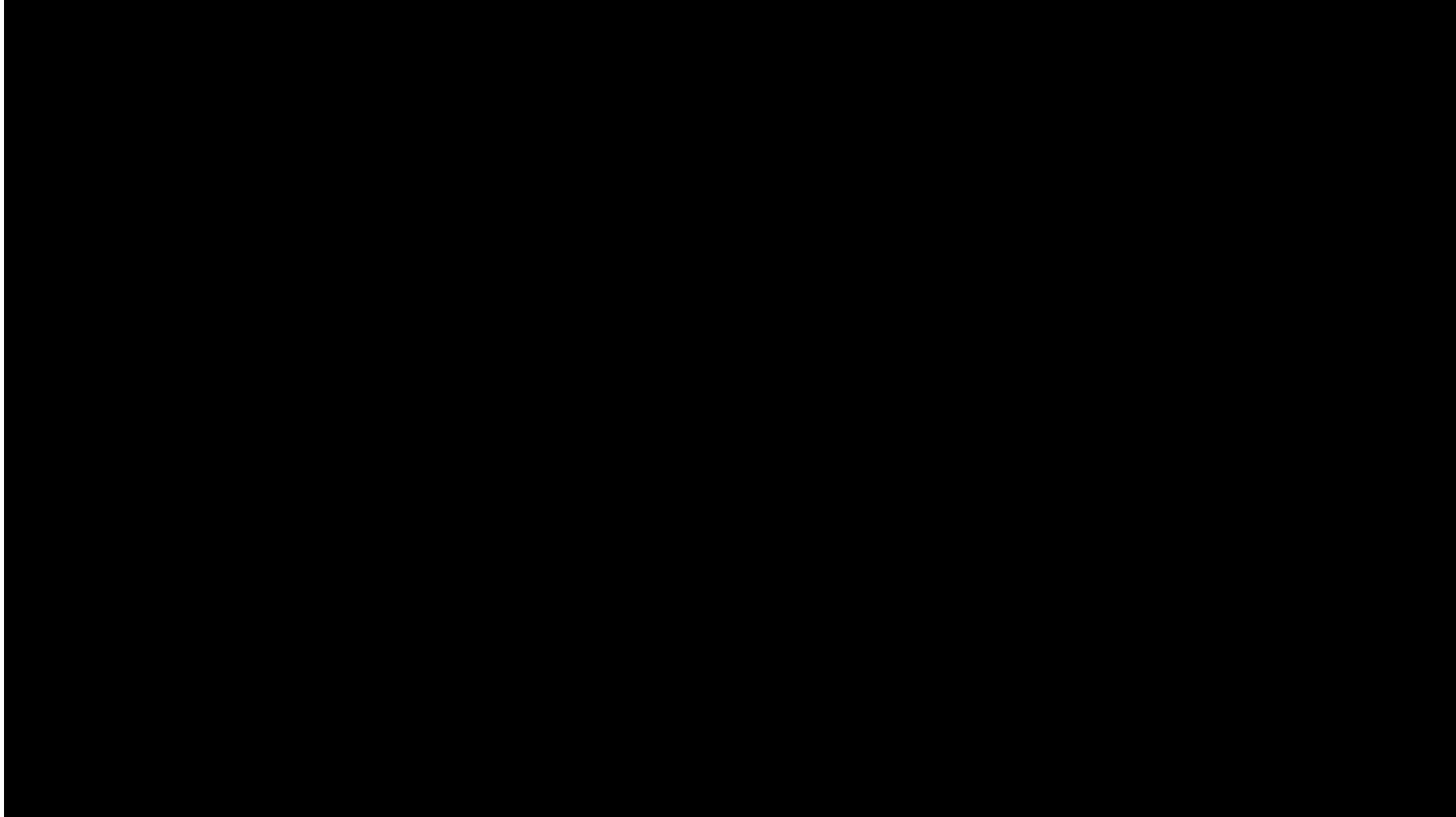


Neoplan Skyliner



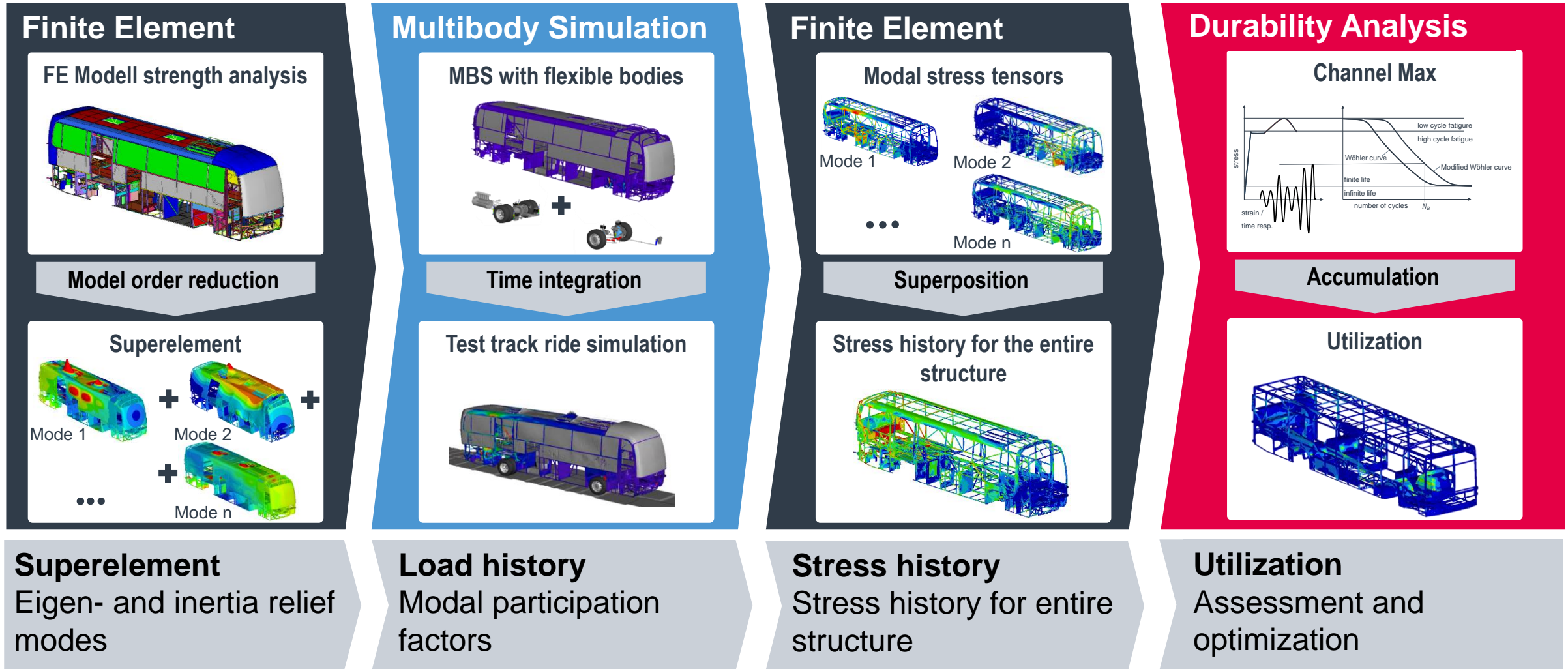
**VIRTUAL PROVING GROUND  
TESTING**

# Hardware and virtual full vehicle testing at MAN



Thanks to the colleagues from EVCD und ECSM (Michael Butz and Joachim Fischer)

# Virtual Proving Ground Testing with full vehicle model



# Prototype vehicle and simulation model

## City bus prototype

- Weight 10-19 t
- Prototype built for load determination and durability testing



## Finite Element

- ~30 Mio. DOF
- 1, 2 & 3D elements
- > 5000 weld seams

## Superelement

- 140 Eigen- /106 IRM modes

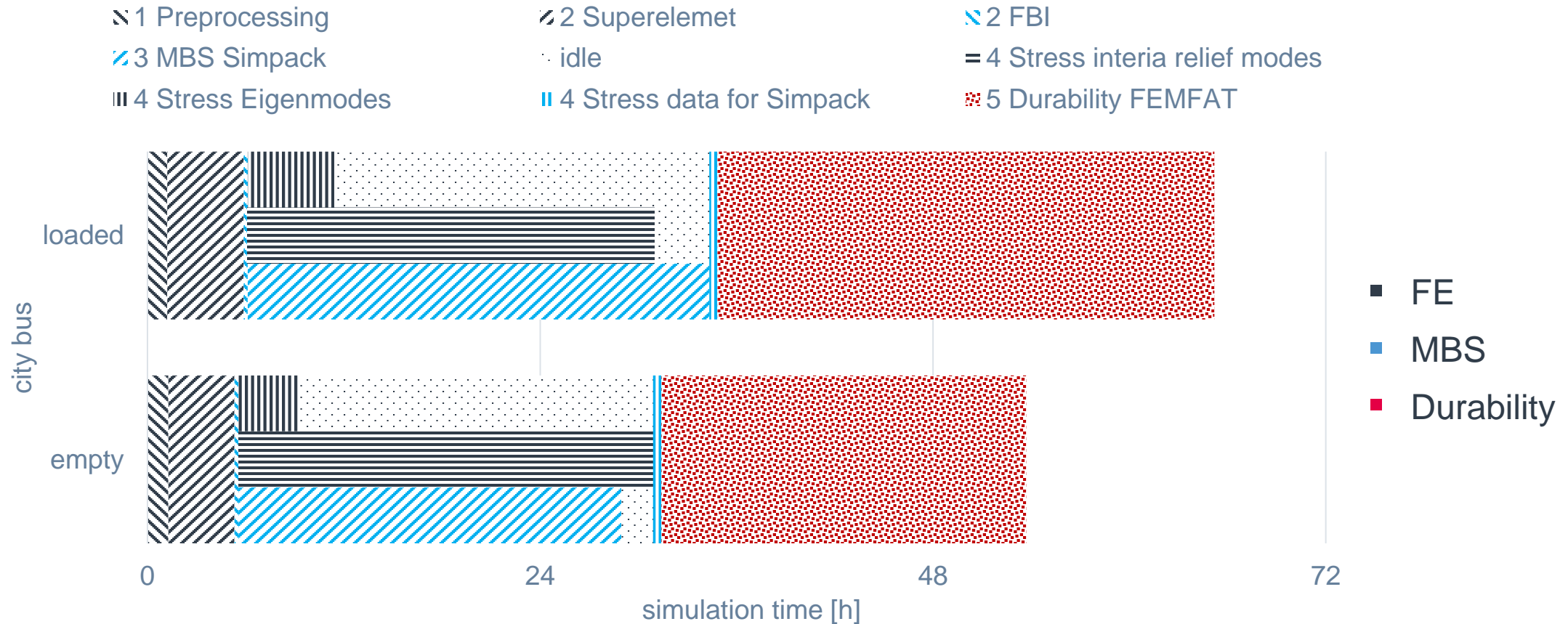


## Multibody Simulation

- Hybrid MBS model with flexible frame
- ~100 bodies
- Drive train model
- Ftire model



# Simulation time on HPC



**FEMFAT Simulation time could be reduced by 80% through optimized parallelization in comparison to FEMFAT User Meeting 2019**





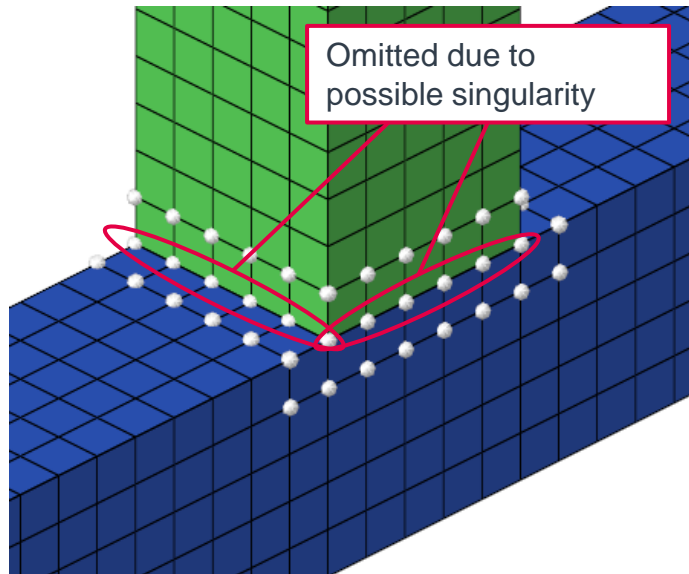
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## ASSESSMENT OF WELDS

# Detection and definition of welds

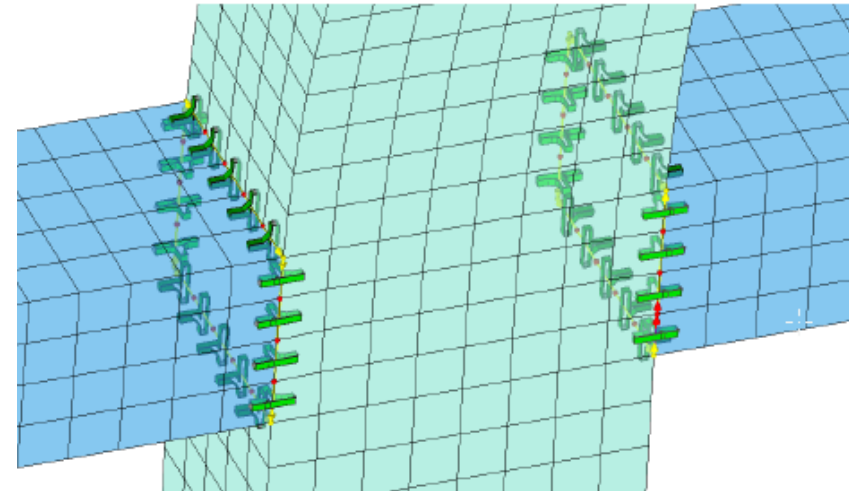
## Simplified approach

- Weld seam nodes found with FE-Preprocessor macro based on finite element model topology
- Nodes at junction are omitted due to singularity
- Weld material assignment to remaining weld nodes



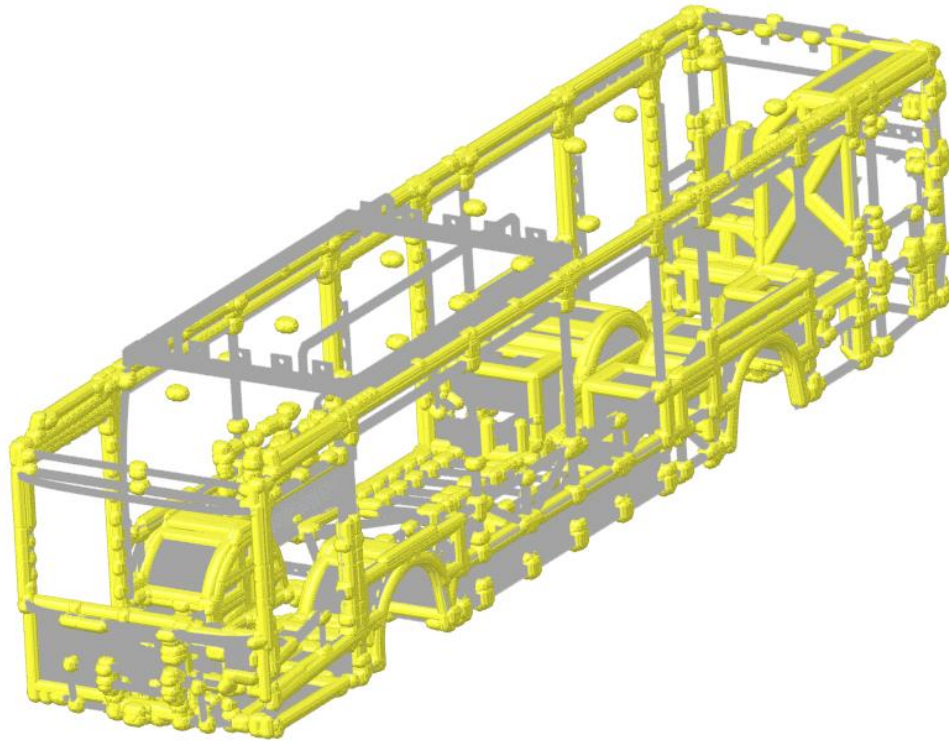
## Weld seam scanner

- Scan finite element model for possible weld seam connections
- Weld definition file is generated
- Import weld definition into Visualizer for weld definition (joint type)
- Check and correct automatically defined seams



# Detected welds

## Weld nodes simplified approach

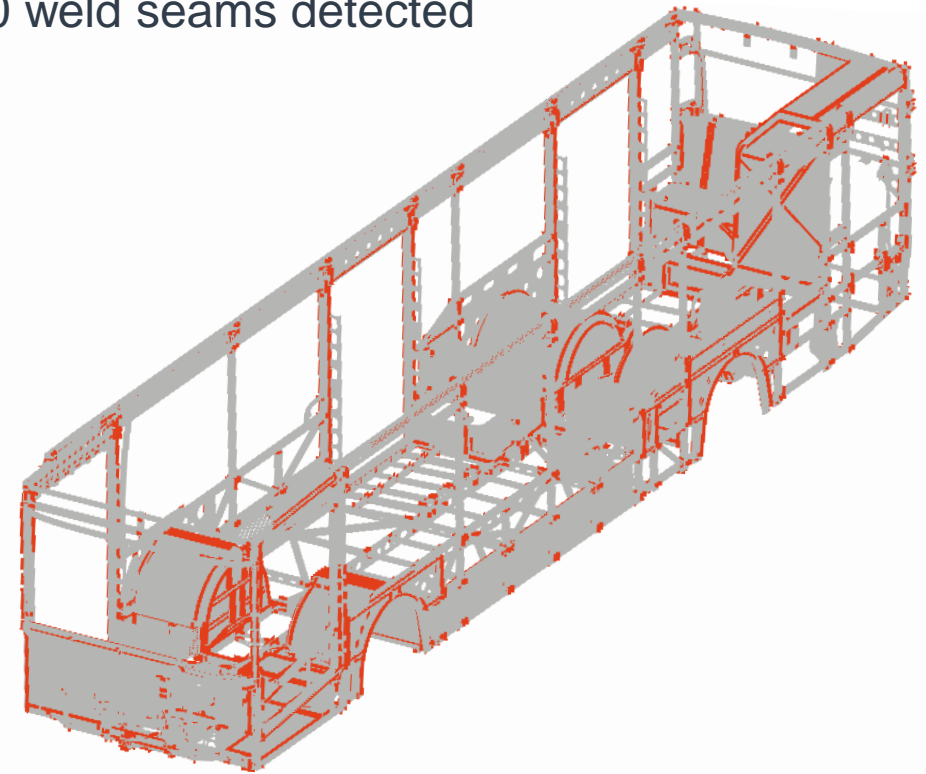


Simplified fully automated process



## Detected weld seams with weld seam scanner

- 5800 weld seams detected



Detailed assessment possible, but check required



# Weld assessment procedure

## Hot spot screening

Base material hot spots

Simplified approach for weld assessment

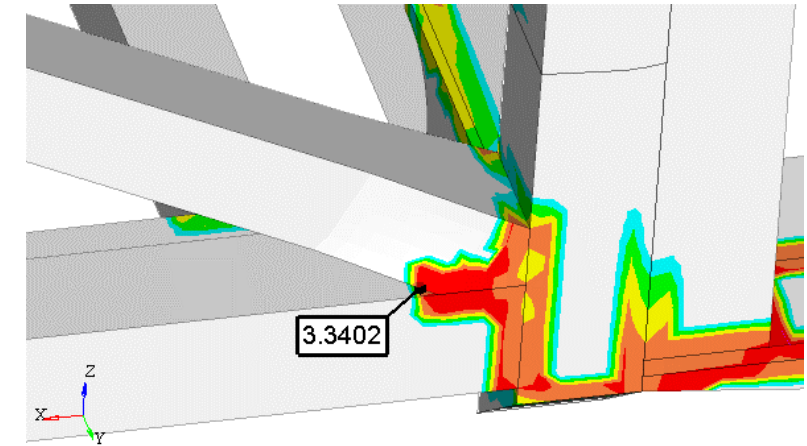
- Fully automated process
- Find critical weld locations

## Detailed weld assessment

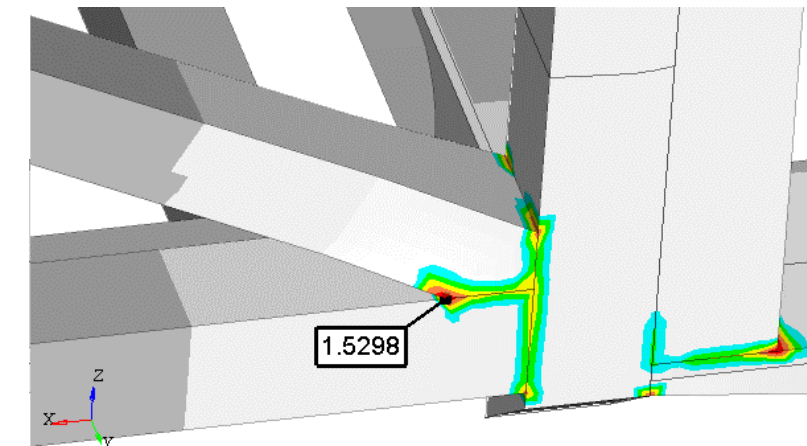
Detect and define weld seams with Weld seam scanner

- Check critical welds and correct type if necessary  
→ only critical welds reduces human involvement
- Run FEMFAT with Weld modul for those welds
- Reassess critical welds – realistic utilization

Utilization from hot spot screening



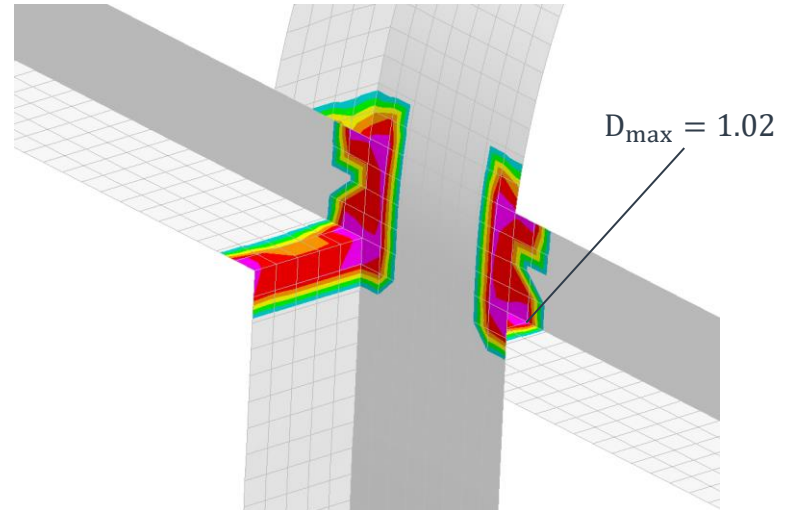
Utilization with detailed weld model



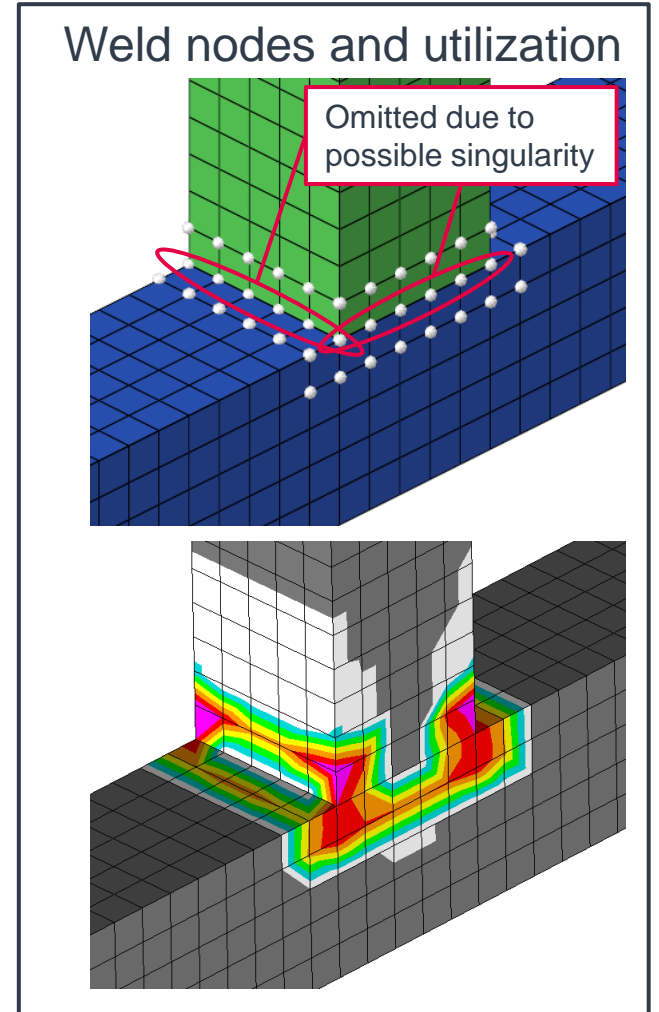
# Assessment with simplified approach

- Critical cutting plane approach (same as base material)
- One calibrated S-N curve for T-junction with component test for all weld nodes
- Nodes at weld seam are not evaluated (singularity)
- Highest ref. Utilization next to weld seam

## Calibration with component test



Fokilidis, A.; Savaidis, G.: Experimental investigation of fatigue of thin-walled welded structures of commercial vehicle frames. Thessaloniki: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, 2007



# Assessment with FEMFAT Weld modul

## Transformation of the stresses to a local coordinate system

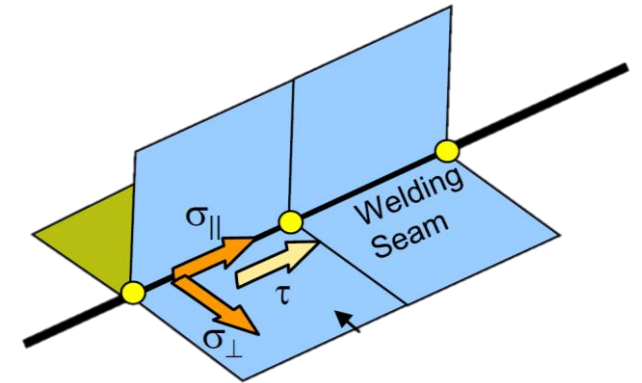
- $\sigma_{\perp}$  stress perpendicular
- $\sigma_{\parallel}$  longitudinal stress
- $\tau$  shear stress

## Structural stress evaluated at fixed distance from weld through interpolation

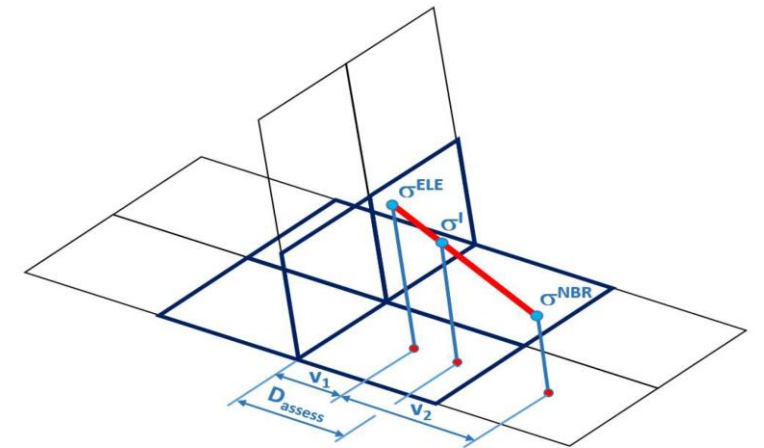
- Reduces mesh dependency

## Assessment

- Detection and definition of welds with Weld seam scanner with manual check
- Assessment with hot spot or notch stress approach



Magna (Hrsg.) Advanced Workshop Weld St. Valentin: Magna, 2019

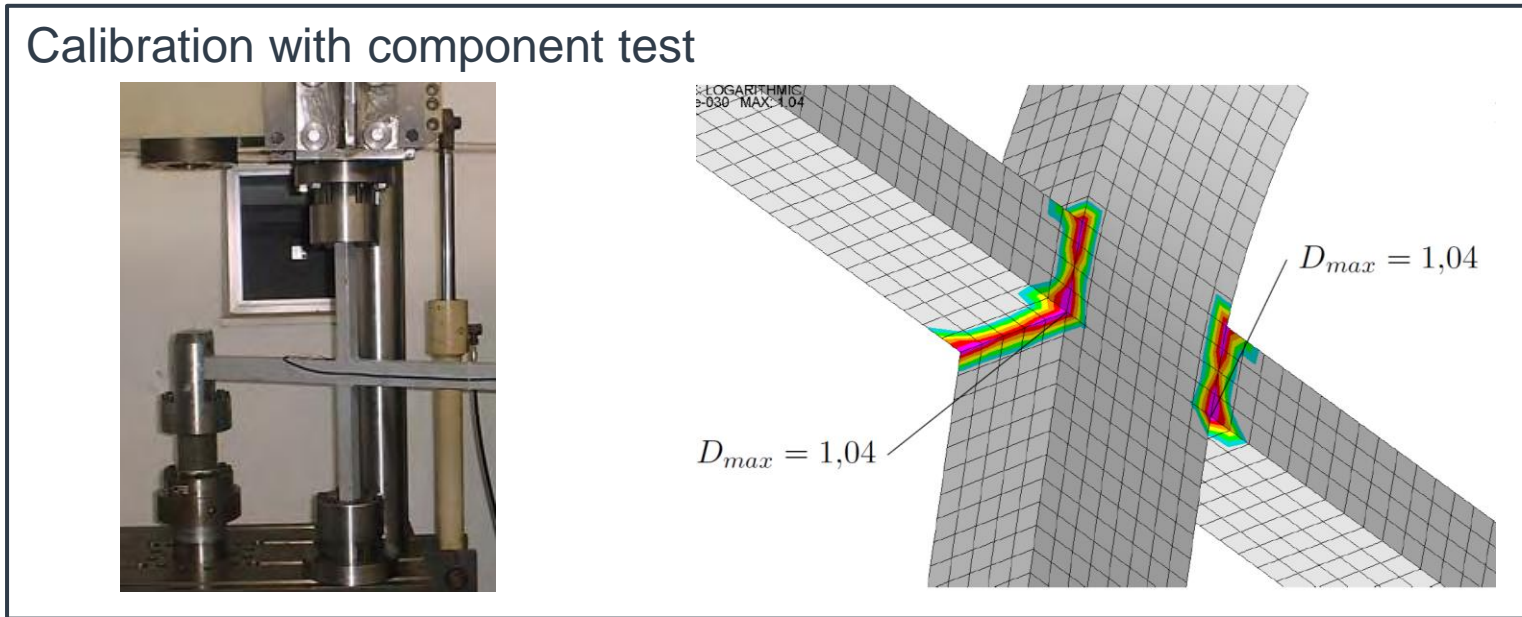


Magna (Hrsg.): FEMFAT 5.4 - BASIC: User Manual. St. Valentin: Magna, 2019

# Hot spot stress approach

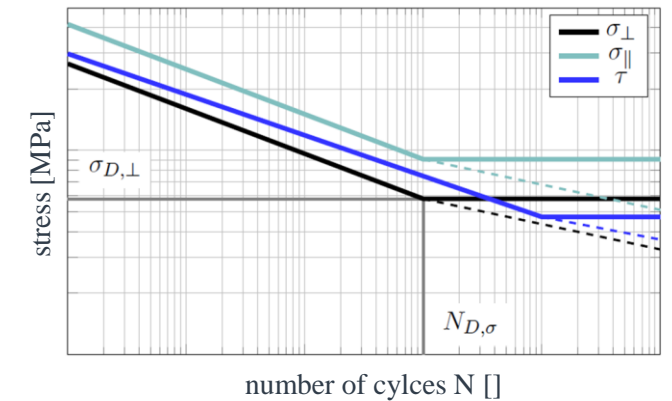
- Assessment of structural stress at defined distance through interpolation
- Separate set of S-N curves for each weld type necessary
  - Scaling with fictive notch factors for integration in FEMFAT
- Calibration of S-N curve with component test

## Calibration with component test

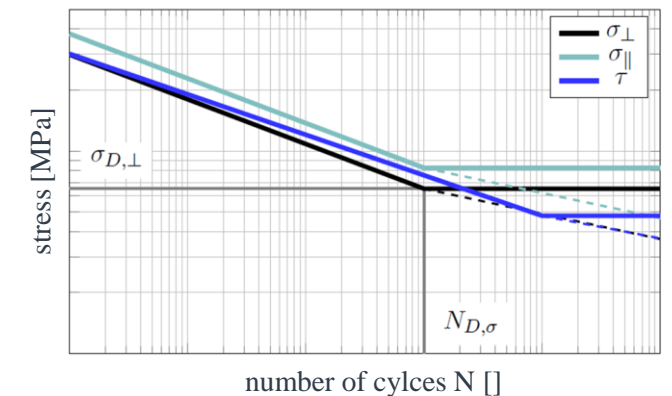


Fokilidis, A.; Savaidis, G.: Experimental investigation of fatigue of thin-walled welded structures of commercial vehicle frames. Thessaloniki: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, 2007

## S-N curve T-joint



## S-N curve HY-seam

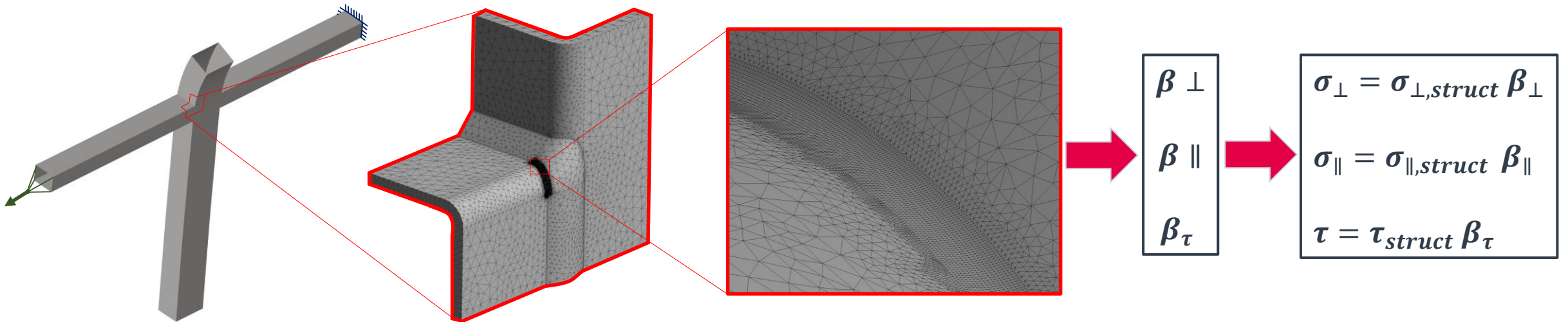


# Notch stress approach

- Assessment of structural stress at defined distance through interpolation
- Multiplication of structural stress with type dependent notch factors

$$\sigma_{notch} = \sigma_{structural} * \beta_{notch}$$

- One S-N curve for all weld types of same material
- Standard FEMFAT database was found too conservative for thin sheets  
→ Notch factors determined with 3D detail model



FE model for notch factor determination

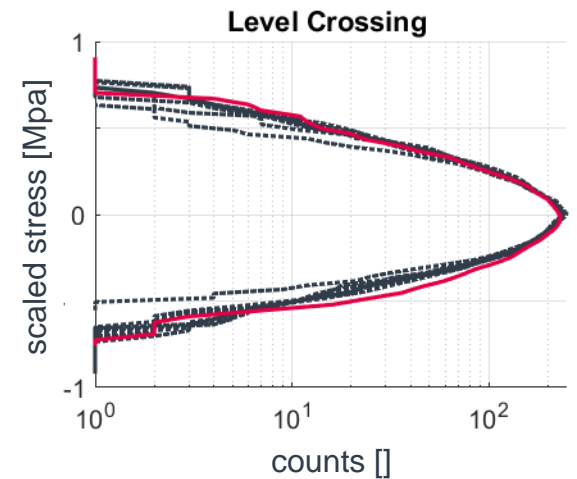
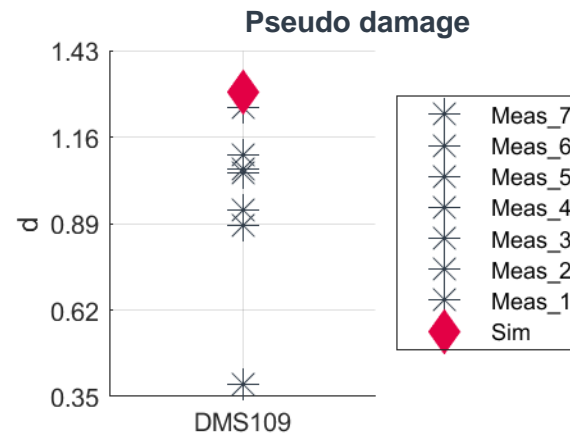
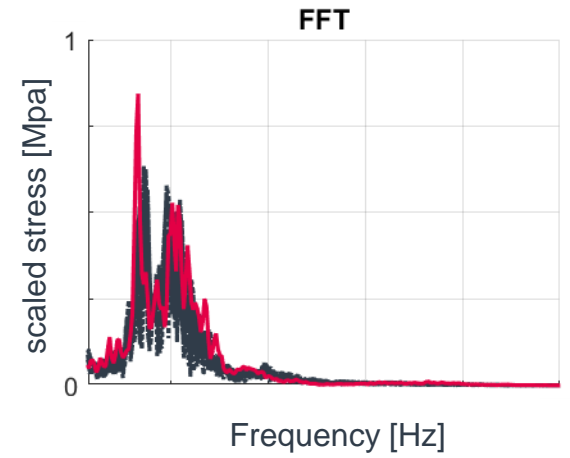
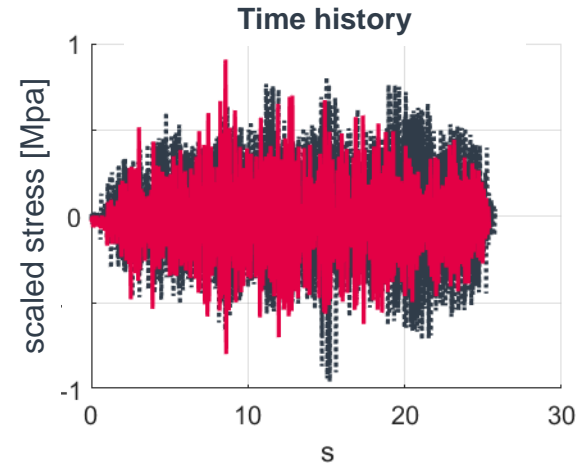
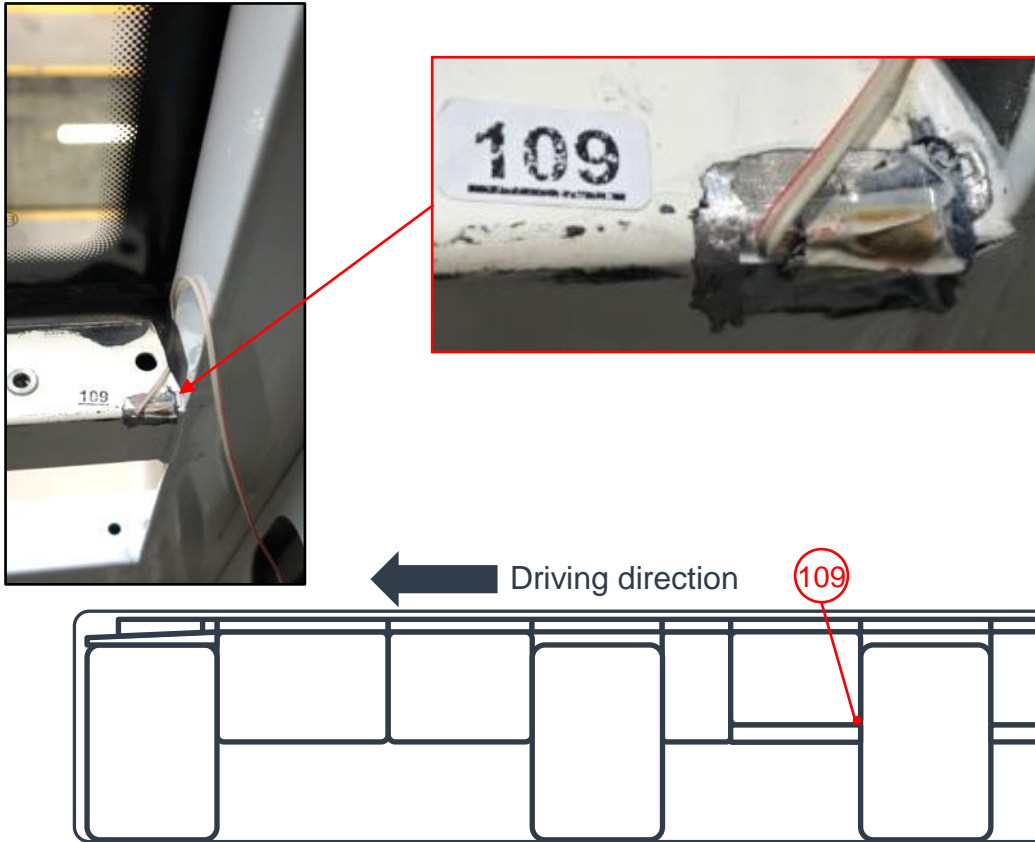




## **COMPARISON SIMULATED AND MEASURED STRESS**

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# Comparison of stress results



Good correlation in time and frequency domain → similar damage potential ✓

# Comparison Pseudo Damage for 72 locations

## Pseudo-damage

### Basquin-equation

$$N = \alpha S^{-k}$$

S stress amplitude

$\alpha$  constant factor

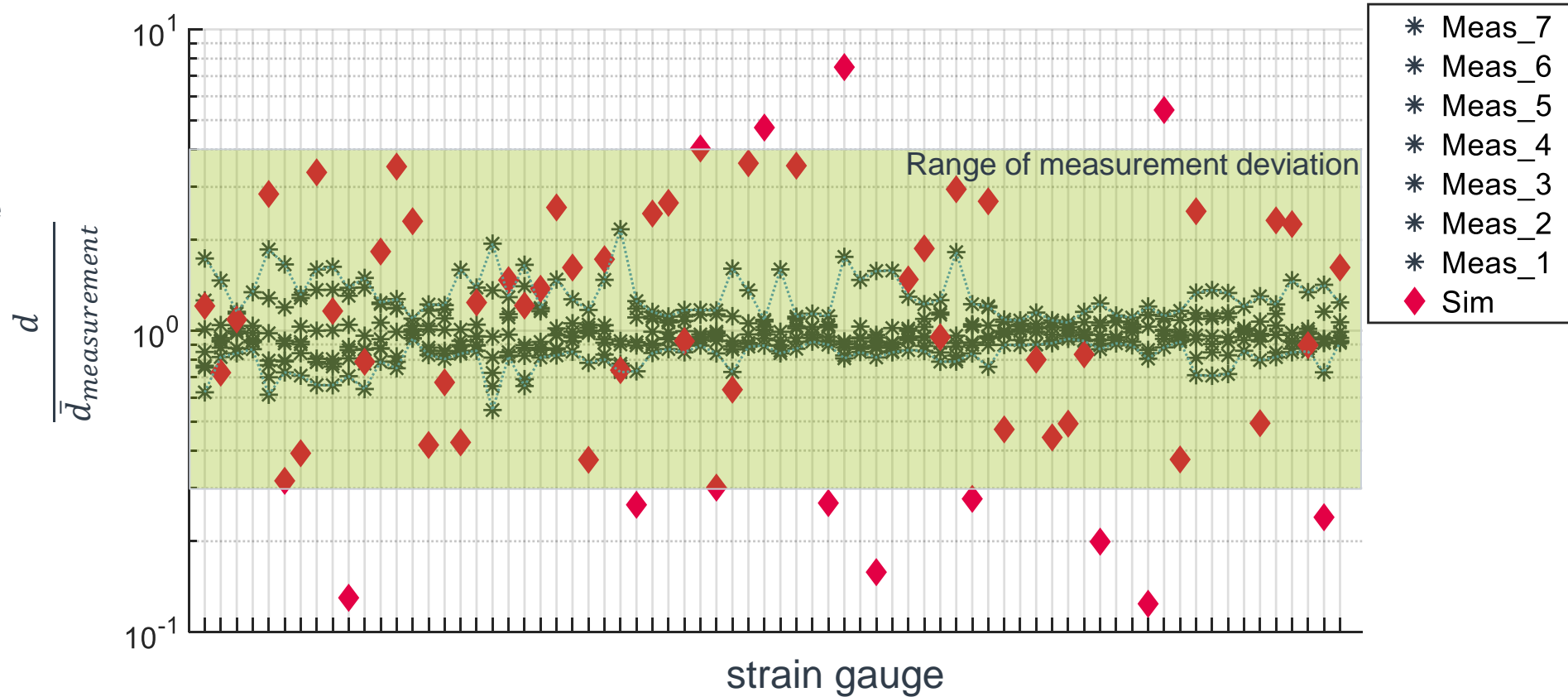
k inclination of S-N curve

### Cumulative damage D

$$D = \sum_i \frac{n_i}{N_i} = \frac{1}{\alpha} \sum_i n_i S_i^k$$

### Pseudo damage d

$$d = \sum_i n_i S_i^k$$





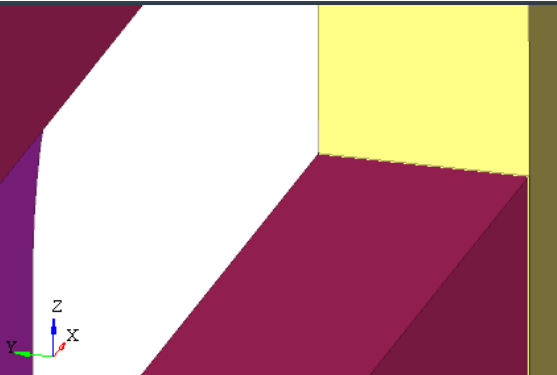
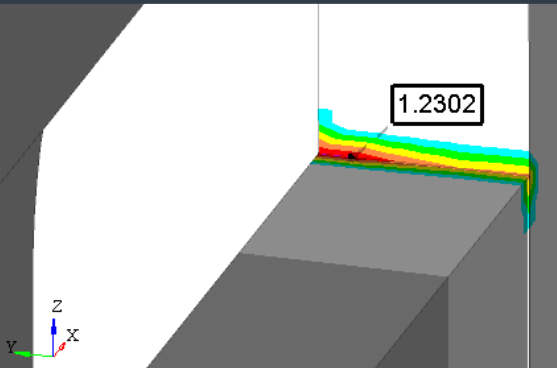
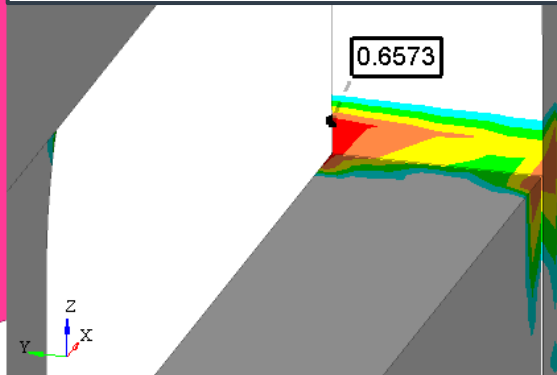
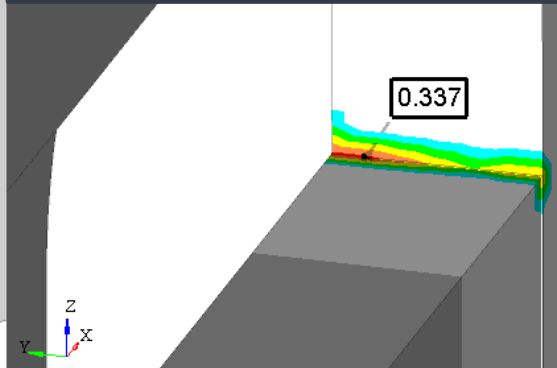
Overall good correlation for stresses in time domain and damage potential




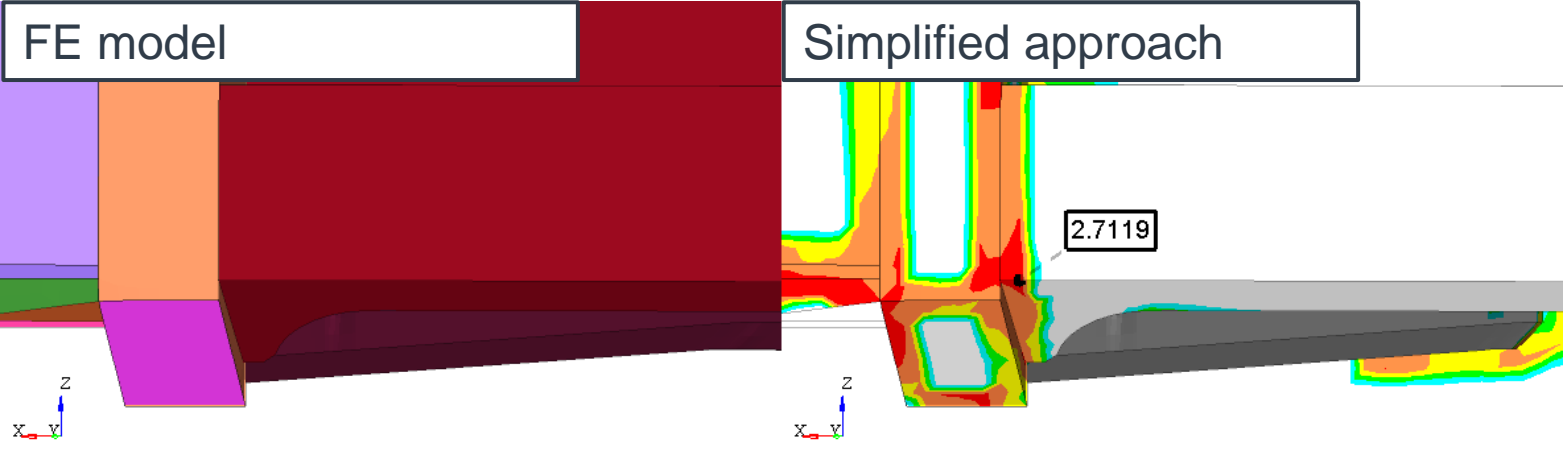

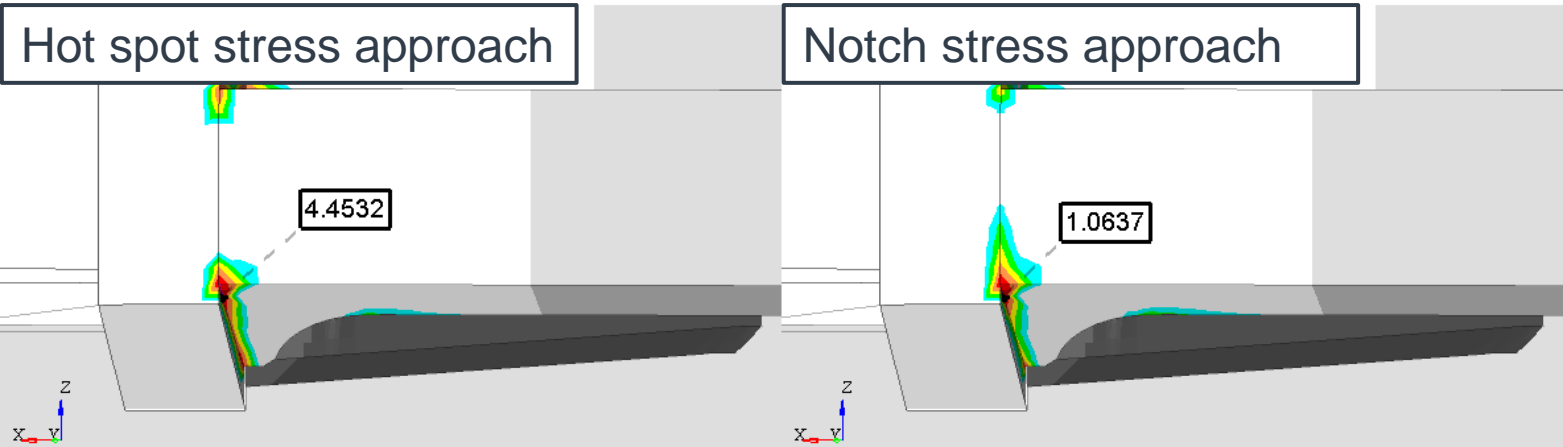
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▶ **COMPARISON OF DURABILITY RESULTS**


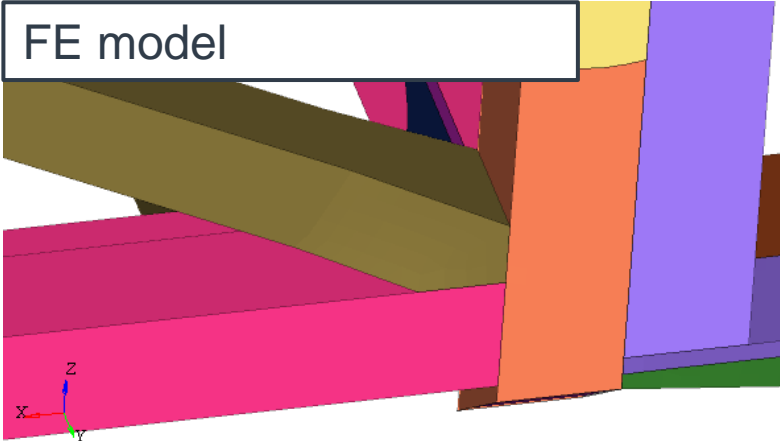
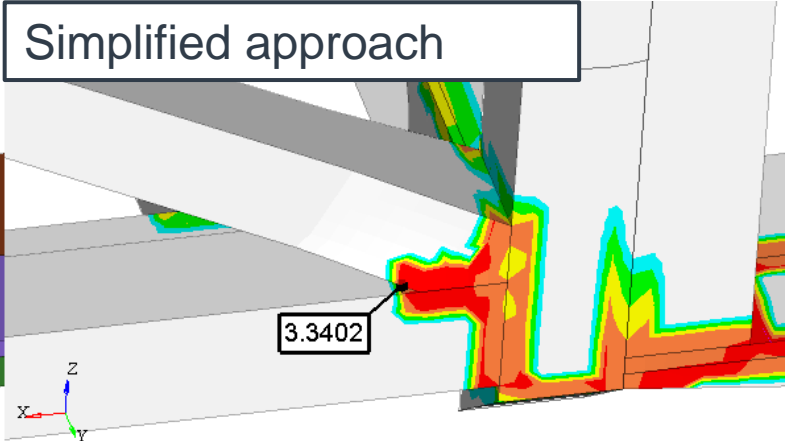

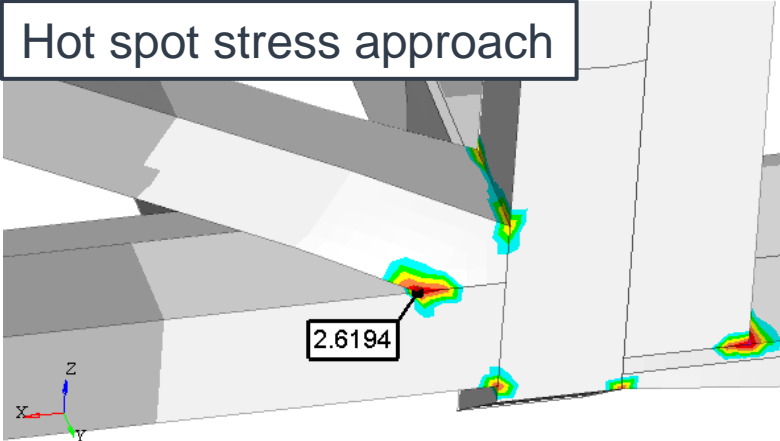
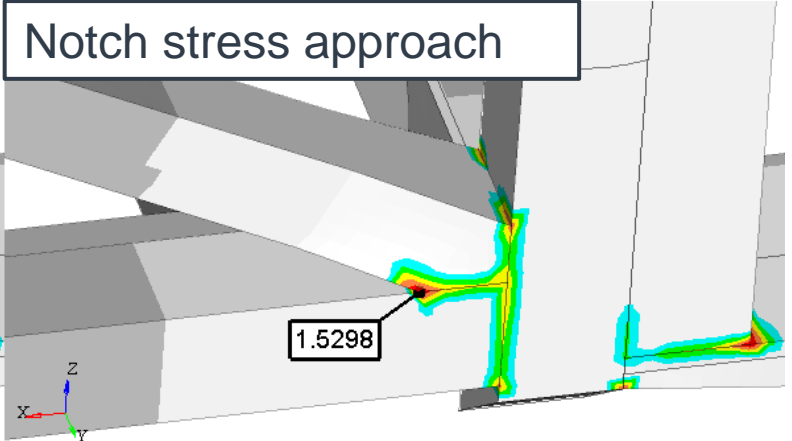
# Simulated and real world testing utilization

Proving ground testing	Virtual proving ground testing	
 <p data-bbox="122 1001 682 1043">Degree of utilization <math>a=5.5</math></p> <div data-bbox="104 1068 861 1318"><p data-bbox="122 1086 682 1186">Good correlation between simulation and testing </p><p data-bbox="122 1200 682 1300">→ Weld model for detailed analysis</p></div>	<p data-bbox="894 444 1447 501">FE model</p>  <p data-bbox="894 893 1447 951">Hot spot stress approach</p>  <p data-bbox="1276 1043 1378 1072">1.2302</p>	<p data-bbox="1658 444 2211 501">Simplified approach</p>  <p data-bbox="1989 544 2091 572">0.6573</p> <p data-bbox="1658 893 2211 951">Notch stress approach</p>  <p data-bbox="2040 1043 2142 1072">0.337</p>

# Simulated and real world testing utilization

Proving ground testing	Virtual proving ground testing
	
<p>Degree of utilization <math>a=5.5</math></p> <p>Good correlation between simulation and testing </p> <p>→ Weld model for detailed analysis</p>	

# Simulated and real world testing utilization

Proving ground testing	Virtual proving ground testing
	 
<p>Degree of utilization <math>a=5.5</math></p> <p>Good correlation between simulation and testing → Weld model for detailed analysis</p> 	 

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## CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK



# Conclusion and outlook

## Conclusion

- Virtual proving ground testing at MAN
- Modelling of welds
  - Simplified approach
  - Hot spot stress
  - Notch stress
- Comparison of stress data from simulation and measurement

Good correlation of stresses between measurement and simulation



- Comparison of simulated utilization at hotspots and proving ground lifetime

Good correlation between virtual proving ground test and real world test



## Outlook

- Extension of notch factor database
- Modelling of damping effects
- Identification of critical modes
- Parallelization of FEMFAT scratching



der Bundeswehr  
*Universität*  *München*



Thank you very much for your attention

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